

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE FACULTY
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON**

ON THE DEATH OF ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR EMERITUS ROBERT F. BARRERAS

Associate Professor Emeritus Robert Barreras, MD of the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health, died suddenly of a heart attack on Tuesday, January 30, 2007 in Madison. He was 75 years old. He was born in New York City on December 18, 1931. He grew up in the Inwood neighborhood of New York City and attended Manhattan Prep. He continued his education in New York City graduating from Columbia University in 1953 and then from Cornell University Medical College in 1957. His post graduate education began at the Hartford Hospital in internal medicine, followed by a year of residency in pathology at Yale (which began a lifelong love affair with gastrointestinal pathology). He then served as a research physician with the Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission in Japan. He resumed training in Boston, completing his medicine residency in 1963 followed by two years as a NIH research fellow at Boston University and the University of Wisconsin.

Dr. Barreras joined the University of Wisconsin Medical School faculty in July 1965 and over the next 34 years developed a well-deserved reputation as one of the best teachers in the Medical School. While maintaining an active clinical research career in gastric acid physiology, he devoted endless hours to teaching and developing the 2nd-year GI course in gastrointestinal pathophysiology. This became the model for many of the other 2nd-year courses. He gave most of the lectures himself and was known as a colorful, insightful teacher who often played musical interludes over the course of three consecutive hours of lectures. His lecture style was enthusiastic, engaging, and sparkling. His talks were punctuated with fascinating historical footnotes and humor. Students loved him, and former students are able to recall his lectures with fondness and clarity decades after graduation. "He was the best teacher that I had." "He influenced me into becoming an academic physician." "The main lesson that he taught was how to think, which was the most important lesson that I learned in the 2nd year." Such comments are representative of the regard with which he was held by generations of medical students and GI fellows. His teaching efforts were rewarded by being presented with the University of Wisconsin Medical School Dean's Teaching Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1992.

He was also a consummate clinician. He was a compassionate and conscientious physician with an encyclopedic knowledge of the gastrointestinal system and its disorders. Difficult cases were often referred to him as the court of last resort. His insight on complex clinical problems was unparalleled. As a result he was a masterful clinical teacher at the bedside and in the conference room.

Dr. Barreras retired in 1999. As predicted, he had a very active retirement. He had many passions as a gourmand, bon vivant, traveler, and intellectual. He is survived by two adult children and their families. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jean, in 1996. He leaves behind numerous former students, adoring patients, and all of us who worked with him during his illustrious career of service to the University of Wisconsin.

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